

**MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
NR-ELIGIBILITY REVIEW FORM**

NR Eligible: yes
no X

Property Name: Windsor Hills School (#87) Inventory Number: B-1350

Address: 4001 Alto Road City: Baltimore Zip Code: 21216

County: Baltimore City USGS Topographic Map: Eastern MD/DC - Baltimore West

Owner: Mayor and City Council of the City of Baltimore

Tax Parcel Number: Tax Map Number: 28 Tax Account ID Number: Tax-Exempt

Project: ATC - FCC - Section 106 Agency: FCC

Site visit by MHT Staff: X no yes Name: Date:

Eligibility recommended Eligibility **not** recommended X

Criteria: A B C D Considerations: A B C D E F G None

Is the property located within a historic district? X no X yes Name of district: Windsor Hills H.D.

Is district listed? no yes Determined eligible? no X yes District Inventory Number: B-1352
to be listed by 12/31/02

Documentation on the property/district is presented in:

Description of Property and Eligibility Determination: (Use continuation sheet if necessary and attach map and photo)

Description.

Completed in 1926, Windsor Hills School is located in northwest Baltimore on the south side of Alto Road at Mount Holly Street. The general shape of the building is an asymmetrical U comprised of the original three-story L structure (the main lateral section and the northwest wing) and a one-story wing to the northeast that was added in the early 1970s. The building is sited with its main entrance facing Alto Road on a lot of approximately 5.7 acres which includes a landscaped front courtyard, paved parking areas and driveways, a paved play yard to the southeast of the building, several paved and unpaved paths, and a large amount of grass-covered open space and trees surrounding the school.

Windsor Hills School is clad in red brick with stone trim. The brick is laid in Flemish bond on the original structure and stretcher bond on the later addition. It is presented in the Tudor Revival style as characterized by a projecting stone oriel with a corbelled base, pointed segmental arches, eyelets, banked windows, and a stylized crenellated parapet.

The main entrance to the school on Alto Road is articulated by a three-story projecting stone central entrance bay with a deep, pointed segmental arch entry opening flanked by eyelets below a three-sided oriel with a corbelled base. Above the arch, the name of the building is inscribed, "Windsor Hills School." A carved crest with the date

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST REVIEW

Eligibility recommended X Eligibility not recommended

Criteria: X A B X C D Considerations: A B C D E F G None

Comments: Contributor to the Windsor Hills Historic District.
B-1352

Janet Yeager
Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services
Blum
Reviewer, NR program

12/2/02 Date
12/3/02 Date

200204305

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
NR-ELIBILITY REVIEW FORM

Continuation Sheet No. 1

B-1350

construction began, "1925," tops the oriel. The stone detail flanking the main entrance is generally in poor condition with significant areas of chipped and broken stone.

In the original L-shaped section of the building, all elevations have banked windows with stone sills. The entry openings are in stone pointed segmental arch surrounds on the northwest and southeast elevations and flat-arched surrounds on the southwest elevation. All window openings in the original section have 4/4/4 sash. Many of the window openings in the original section of the building have been filled, often with brick or concrete block, including all of the oriel openings and eyelets on the façade, the openings above the entrances on the southeast elevation, and the basement windows on the southwest elevation. All doors have been replaced with metal security doors.

The addition has three sets of ribbon windows with fixed sash on its southeast elevation, a pair of metal doors on its northeast elevation, and three sets of fixed multi-pane windows on its northwest elevation. A single-bay loading area dominates the northwest elevation of the building's addition. An L-shaped brick wall with asymmetrically placed and irregularly sized openings partially hides the loading area from Alto Road. The wall is in poor condition with many cracked and missing individual bricks.

History.

Designed by the Baltimore architectural firm of Clyde N. and Nelson Friz and constructed by the P.C. Streett Engineering Company, Windsor Hills School (City of Baltimore Public School No. 87) was built between 1925 and 1926 to accommodate over 800 students in kindergarten to grade six.¹ Despite plans that it would be complete when the city's public schools began their fall term in the beginning of September, the building was not ready for occupancy until September 30, 1926.² Windsor Hills School has continued to serve the community as an elementary school since it opened over 75 years ago.

The construction of the Windsor Hills School was part of an extensive building program implemented by the Public Improvement Commission and the School Department of Baltimore during the 1920s. This program of new construction, additions, and improvements to existing buildings was formulated to meet the urgent need for additional classrooms to accommodate the city's rapidly growing school-age population at the time. Designs for schools executed as part of the 1920s building program reflected the recent reorganization of the school system from an "8-4" plan (i.e., eight grades in elementary school and four in high school) to a "6-3-3" plan (i.e., six grades in elementary school, three in junior high school, and 3 in high school).³ By the end of 1925, twelve new school buildings had been erected. In 1926 alone, twelve additional new buildings were completed. This increase represented more new school buildings than had opened in the city in any other year in its history.⁴ Windsor Hills School was characteristic of the schools that contributed to this notable civic achievement. In the two years that followed, several other new school buildings were constructed including Baltimore City College. Overall, the 1920s building program in Baltimore increased the seating capacity of the city's schools, which had been approximately 100,000 in 1921, by 33 percent.⁵ Many of the schools from this time are still standing and remain in service as Baltimore public schools.

Windsor Hills School remained unaltered until the early 1970s when an addition was built to house a gymnasium and a cafeteria. Despite the optimism of this addition, enrollment at Windsor Hills School declined as new schools were built in neighboring communities and the overall population in the city decreased. In 1986, the Department of

¹ "Advises Rejection of Bids of Schools" in *Baltimore Sun*, June 9, 1925. "Board Approves Plans for New City College" in *Baltimore Sun*, October 1, 1925.

² "Only Two of New Schools to Be Ready by Tuesday," in *Baltimore Sun*, September 4, 1926.

³ "Extensive School Program Being Carried Out By City is Attracting Attention from All Parts of the Country" in *Baltimore Municipal Journal*, March 10, 1927.

⁴ David E. Weglein, "Public Schools of City Have Made Great Progress" in *Baltimore Municipal Journal*, March 10, 1927.

⁵ "Finishing of Work of P.I.C. Foreseen" in *Baltimore Sun*, December 9, 1925. "Extensive School Program" in *Baltimore Municipal Journal*, 1.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
NR-ELIBILITY REVIEW FORM

Continuation Sheet No. 2

B-1350

Education proposed closing the school. It remained open when new uses and programs were found for formerly vacant spaces within the school.⁶

Architect

Clyde N. Friz (1867-1942) studied architecture at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and, during the 1880s, was employed by various architects' offices in St. Louis. He moved to Baltimore in 1900 and became a draftsman with the firm of Wyatt and Noltings.⁷ After the Baltimore fire of 1904, he formed a partnership with William Gordon Beecher and then opened his own practice in 1925.⁸ In collaboration with Nelson Friz, Clyde N. Friz designed many important buildings in the city including the main branch of the Enoch Pratt Public Library, the Scottish Rite Temple (in association with the office of John Russell Pope), the Home Friendly Insurance Building, the Central Fire Insurance Company Building, the Knights of Pythias Building, and the Standard Oil Building, as well as several churches and houses.⁹ In addition, in the 1930s, Friz drew the design for the renovation of the Governor's residence, Government House, in Annapolis.¹⁰

Eligibility.

Windsor Hills School does not meet National Register Criteria A, B, or D. Preliminary research has not revealed any association between this school and events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history (Criterion A) or the lives of persons significant in our past (Criterion B). Criterion D, information potential, was not evaluated for this study, but preliminary research did not produce any evidence that the school is likely to yield information important in history or prehistory.

Windsor Hills School also does not meet National Register Criterion C. The gymnasium/cafeteria wing that was added in the 1970s is not a sympathetically designed addition to the original structure and obscures the intended massing and appearance of the school. Although the Tudor Revival-style building may reveal characteristics of school architecture and design from the 1920s in the City of Baltimore, it is not a unique representation of the building type or period of construction. Further, its visual integrity has been harmed due to the intrusive 1970s addition.

Prepared by: Laura H. Hughes and
Patricia C. Altman,
Architectural Historians

Date Prepared: November 5, 2002

⁶ Windsor Hills Neighbors, Inc., *Windsor Hills: A Century of History 1895-1995* (Baltimore: Windsor Hills Neighbors, Inc., 1995), 23.

⁷ Henry F. Withey and Elsie Rathburn Withey, *Biographical Dictionary of American Architects (Deceased)* (Los Angeles: Hennessey & Ingalls, Inc., 1970), 223-4.

⁸ "Friz, Architect, Dies in Hospital," *Baltimore Sun*, 23 November 23 1942.

⁹ *Ibid.*

¹⁰ "Clyde N. Friz Funeral Held," *Baltimore Sun*, 26 November 1942.

B-1350

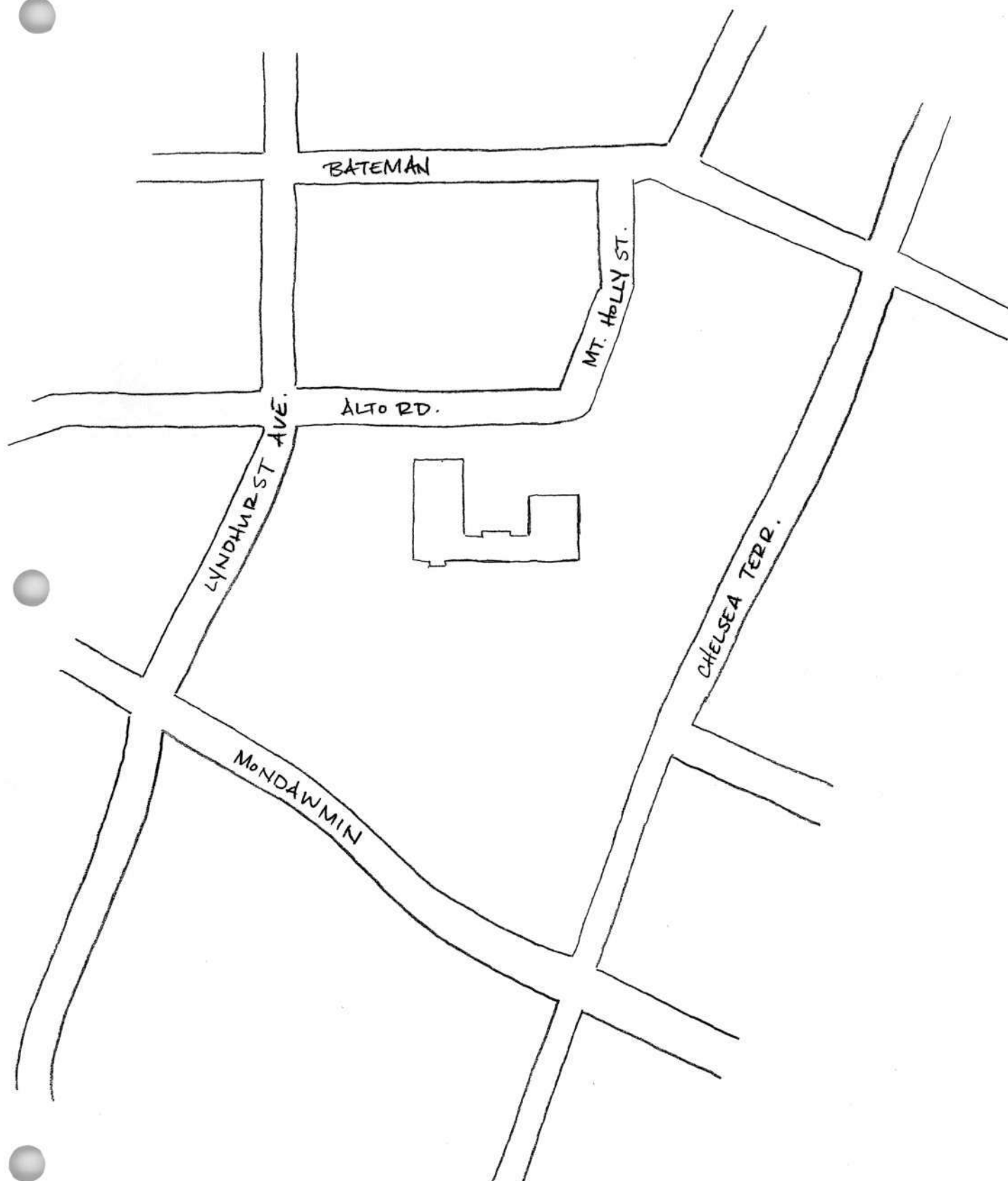
WINDSOR HILLS SCHOOL (#87)

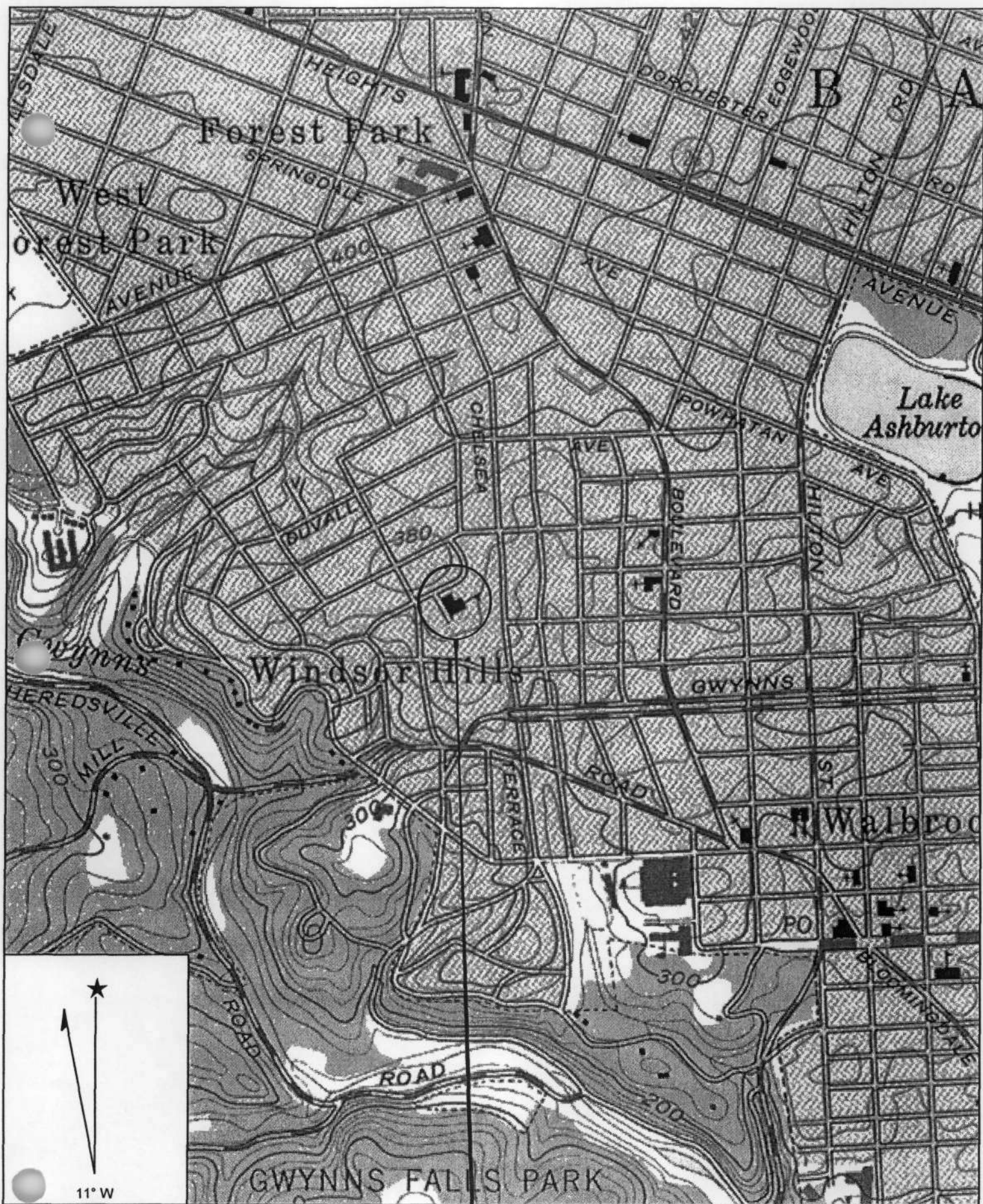
4001 ALTO ROAD

BALTIMORE (CITY), MD



RESOURCE SKETCH MAP





Name: BALTIMORE WEST
 Date: 10/21/2002
 Scale: 1 inch equals 1000 feet

Location: 18 354982 E 4353014 N
 Caption: Windsor Hills Elementary School (#87)
 Baltimore City, Maryland
 B-1350

SCHOOL
BUS STOP
NO PARKING
7AM - 3PM
←→
SCHOOL
DAYS ONLY



B-1350

Windsor Hills School
4001 Alto Road
Baltimore (City), MD

EHT Traceries, 10/2002
MD SHPO

NW main facade, courtyard, from Alto Rd.

#1 of 17



B-1350

Windsor Hills School

4001 Alto Road

Baltimore (City), MD

EHT Tracevics 10/2002

MD SHPO

Main entrance, NW facade, from courtyard



B-1350

Windsor Hills School

4001 Alto Road

Baltimore (city) MD

Traceries, 10/2002

MD SHPO

main entrance (detail), NW facade



B-1350

Windsor Hills School

4501 Alto Road

Baltimore (City), MD

Tracevics, 10/2002

MD SHPO

main entrance (detail), NW facade



B-1350

Windsor Hills School

4001 Alto Road

Baltimore (city), MD

Traceries, 10/2002

MD SHPO

main entrance (detail), NW facade



B-1350

Windsor Hills School

4001 Alto Road

Baltimore (city), MD

Tracevics, 10/2002

MD SHPO

view to south corner of courtyard on Alto Road



B-1350

Windsor Hills School

Baltimore (city), MD

Traceries, 10/2002

MD SHPO

SW wing, NE elevation, view from courtyard



B-1350

Windsor Hills School
Baltimore, MD (city)

Tracey, 10/2002

MD SHPO

SW wing, NE elevation (window detail), view
from courtyard



B-1350

Windsor Hills School

4501 Alto Road

Baltimore (City), MD

Tracevies, 10/2002

MD SHPO

SW wing, NW elevation, view looking south from
Alto Rd.



B-1350

Windsor Hills School

4001 Alto Road

Baltimore (City), MD

Tracerics, 10/2002

MD SHPD

SW wing, NW elevation, view looking east from
Alto Rd.



B-1350

Windsor Hills School

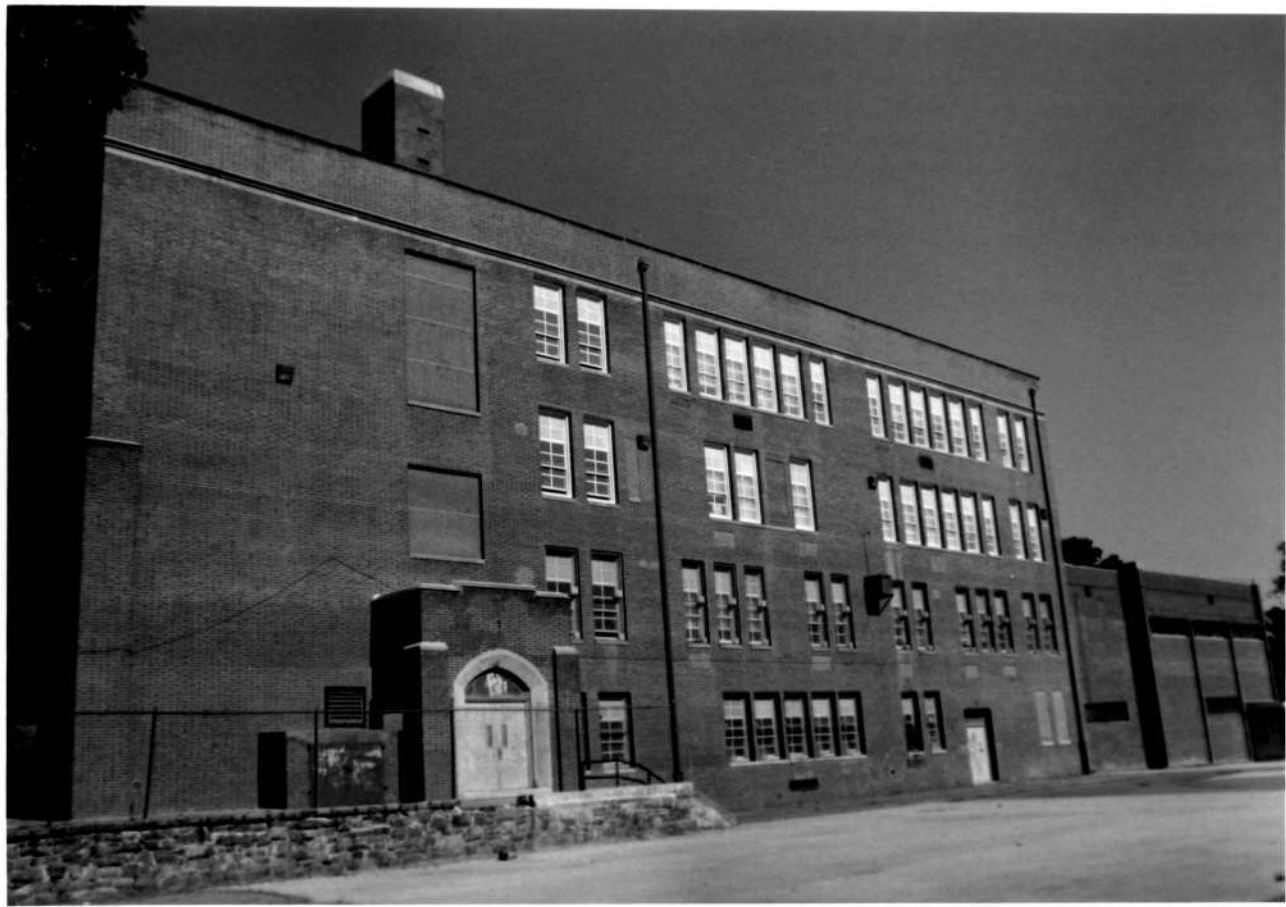
4001 Alto Road

Baltimore (City), MD

Tracevics, 10/2002

MD SHPO

SW wing, SW elevation, view looking north



B-1350

Windsor Hills School

4001 Alto Road

Baltimore (city), MD

Tracovics, 10/2002

MD SHPO

SE elevation, view looking north from playground



B-1350

Windsor Hills School

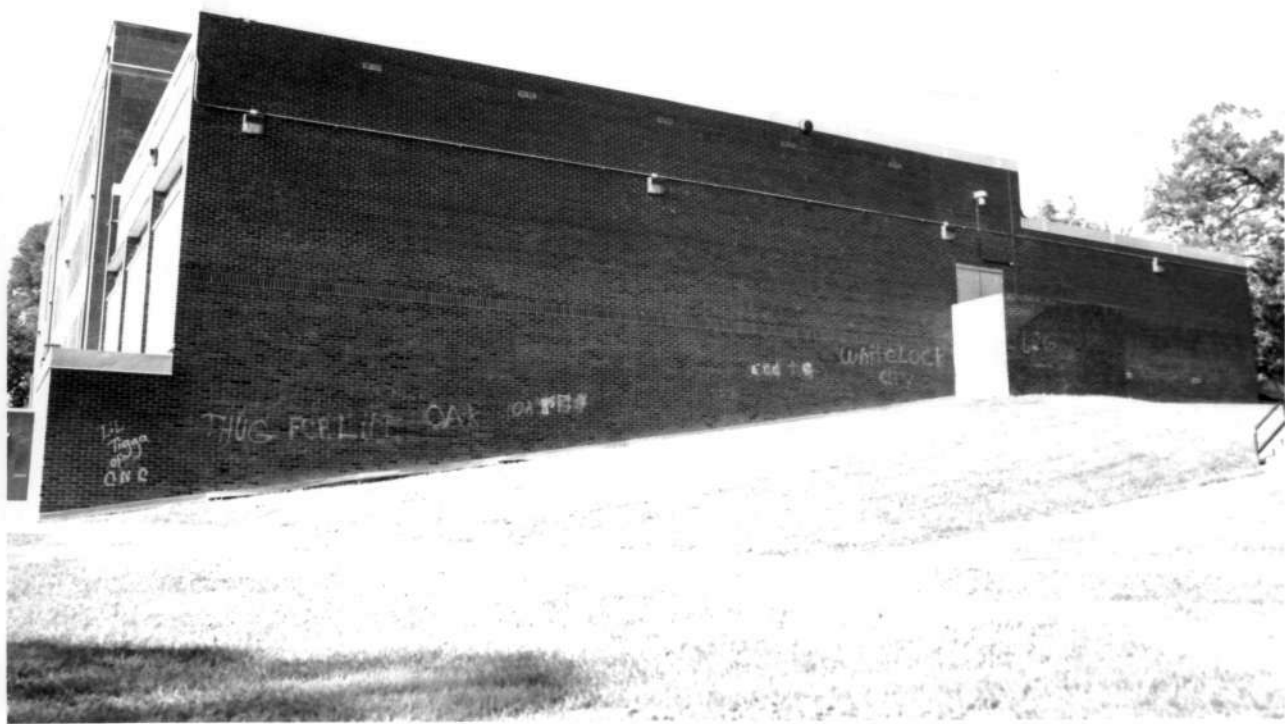
4001 Alto Road

Baltimore (City), MD

Traccies , 10/2002

MD SHPO

NE wing, SE elevation



B-1350

Windsor Hills School

4001 Alto Road

Baltimore (city). MD

Traces, 10/2002

MD SHDO

NE wing, NE elevation

#14 of 17



B-1350

Windsor Hills School

4001 Alto Road

Baltimore (City), MD

Traceries, 10/2002

MD SHPO

NE wing, NW elevation (wall detail), view
looking east from Alto Rd.



B-1350

Windsor Hills School

4001 Alto Road

Baltimore (city), MD

Tracevics, 10/2002

MD SHPO

view to east corner of courtyard on Alto Rd.



B-1350

Windsor Hills School

4501 Alto Road

Baltimore (City), MD

Traccis , 10/2002

MD SHPO

view looking south from Alto Rd. & Mt. Holly St.